

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amend claims 2, 5, 7-11 and 16 to read as follows:

2. (Amended) A driving apparatus comprising:

a driving unit having a plurality of displacement elements;

a synthesizing member connected to a tip end of each of the plurality of displacement elements, the synthesizing member being in pressure contact with a driven member;

a base member supporting base ends of the plurality of displacement elements;

a spring member attached to the base member biasing the synthesizing member onto the driven member;

a drive signal output unit outputting drive signals to each of the plurality of displacement elements causing the synthesizing member to perform a specific motion, the driven member being driven in a prescribed direction by the synthesizing member performing the specific motion; and

a regulating member regulating a displacement of the driving unit, the regulating member facing the base member opposite from the driven member at a prescribed distance from the base member,

wherein the prescribed distance approximately equals or exceeds an amplitude of oscillation of the driving unit caused by a displacement of the plurality of displacement elements.

5. (Amended) A driving apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the specific motion is reciprocating.

7. (Amended) A driving apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the spring member applies a force to the driving unit in a direction parallel to the contact surface of the synthesizing member and driven member.

8. (Amended) A driving apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of displacement elements have a truss type structure.

9. (Amended) A driving apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of displacement elements are piezoelectric elements made from PZT.

10. (Amended) A driving apparatus comprising:
a driving unit having a plurality of displacement elements;
a synthesizing member connected to a tip end of each of the plurality of displacement elements, the synthesizing member being in pressure contact with a driven member;
a base member supporting base ends of the plurality of displacement elements;
a spring member attached to the base member biasing the synthesizing member onto the driven member;

a drive signal output unit outputting drive signals to each of the plurality of displacement elements causing the synthesizing member to perform a specific motion, the driven member being driven in a prescribed direction by the synthesizing member performing the specific motion;

a first regulating member regulating a displacement of said driving unit, the first regulating member being located at a position facing the base member opposite from the driven member, the spring member applying a force to the driving unit in a direction perpendicular to a contact surface of the synthesizing member and driven member, and the regulating member maintaining the driving unit at an upstream position relative to the direction of driving; and

a second regulating member regulating a displacement of the driving unit, the second regulating member facing the base member opposite from the driven member at a prescribed distance from the base member,

wherein the prescribed distance of the second regulating member approximately equals or exceeds an amplitude of oscillation of the driving unit caused by a displacement of the plurality of displacement elements.

11. (Amended) A driving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the first regulating member further comprises a support member rotatably supporting the driving unit and acting as a fulcrum.

16. (Amended) A method for driving a driven member using a driving unit having a plurality of displacement elements, a synthesizing member connected to a tip end of each of the plurality of displacement elements, a regulating member regulating a displacement of the driving unit and a base member supporting base ends of the plurality of displacement elements, the method comprising:

- biasing the synthesizing member into contact with the driven member;
- outputting drive signals to each of the plurality of displacement elements;
- moving the synthesizing member in a specific motion;
- driving the driven member in a prescribed direction based on the specific motion performed by the synthesizing member; and
- placing the regulating member to face the base member opposite from the driven member at a prescribed distance from the base member, the prescribed distance being approximately equal to or greater than an amplitude of oscillation of the driving unit caused by a displacement of the plurality of displacement elements.